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Symington's Air Probe Will Include the Navy

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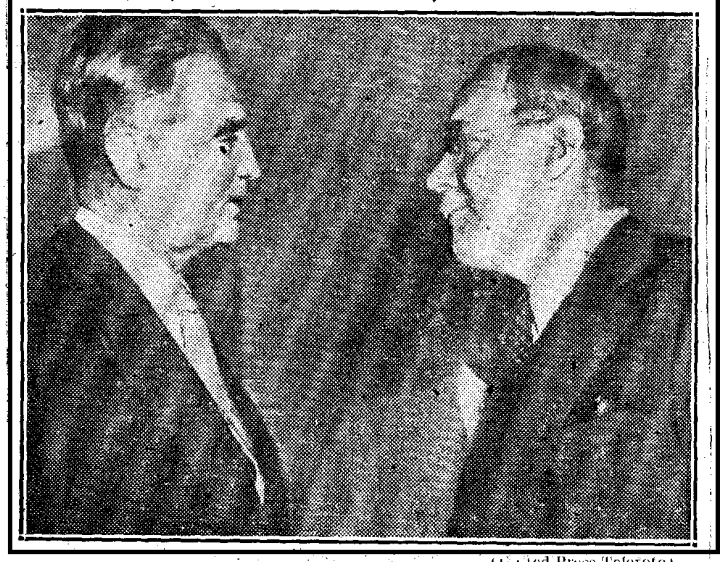
Washington, April 18.—Senate Democratic leaders have given a special Senate subcommittee permission to probe the Navy's air arm and the missile programs of all



(United Press Telefoto)

CIA Director Allen Dulles (right) confers with Sen. Symington before yesterday's secret hearing.

the military services in an attempt to learn whether the U. S. is falling behind Russia in air power, THE NEWS learned today.

A Senate Armed Forces subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), was set up this week to appraise U. S. air strength and it was generally supposed it would center its investigation on the Air Force.

In Direct Competition

GOP members of the committee demanded that naval aviation also be considered, and that the investigation take in the Army's long-range missile projects—some of which are in direct competition with Navy and Air Force programs—"to determine all the facts."

The leaders' action, an informed source said, may well turn the inquiry into a complete review of the entire defense structure—the first conducted by Congress since 1949.

That one was tabbed the "revolt of the admirals," when Adm. Arthur Radford, now chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, led a fight against the Air Force B-36 bomber program.

He Saw Russell

Symington has been noncommittal on the subject of the expanded investigation, insisting that the U. S. and Russian air forces are the No. 1 subjects. But THE NEWS learned that in a conference with Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Symington was told there would be no objection to a broadened inquiry.

Such action would meet the demands of Sens. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) and James Duff (R-Pa.).

The Symington committee received a secret report on Russian air power today from Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who was questioned for more than two hours afterward.

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